

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 2, 2012

Agenda Item: Wildlife Habitat Lands Projects

Division/Bureau: Wildlife **Action Needed:** Preliminary Approval for a Course of

Action **Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 min.

Background

The Wildlife Bureau solicited land project proposals from FWP regions in February. A total of 15 proposals were submitted. Each proposal was reviewed and ranked by regional supervisors and Wildlife Bureau staff in mid-May. The following seven prospective projects are recommended based on that ranking process. An overview map and individual property maps are attached. Funding will be from a variety of FWP and external sources.

- Flathead Lake North Shore State Park/WMA Addition I–Region 1, Flathead County. Fee 190 acres. Grassland, wetland, shrub forest.
- Flathead Lake North Shore State Park/WMA Addition II–Region 1, Flathead County. Fee 62 acres. Grassland, wetland, shrub forest.
- Fish Creek WMA Forks Inholdings–Region 2, Mineral County. Fee 228 acres. Conifer forest, foothill grassland, and Fish Creek bottom.
- Dome Mountain WMA Addition–Region 3, Park County. Fee 31.53 acres. Foothill grassland adjacent to Dome Mtn WMA.
- Teigen Ranch–Region 4, Fergus and Petroleum Counties. Cons. Easement 22,000 acres. Sagebrush grassland and riparian.
- Buffalo Coulee–Region 6, Valley County. Cons. Easement 2,825 acres. Sagebrush grassland, riparian, Milk River bottom.
- Jorgenson Elk Island WMA Addition–Region 7, Richland County. Fee 40 acres. Yellowstone River bottom cropland, to be restored to bottomland.

Public Involvement Process & Results

No public review has taken place to date.

Alternatives and Analysis

One of more of these projects could be dropped from consideration.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends that the commission endorse proceeding with efforts to complete these seven proposed land projects, including negotiations and environmental and public review.

Proposed Motion

I move the commission give preliminary approval for FWP to begin negotiations and related land acquisition processes for these seven priority land projects.